



State of Arizona  
Department of Education  
Research and Evaluation

## Definition of Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools

**Tier I.** Any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that is:

1. Among the lowest-achieving 5 percent of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring

Or

2. Is a high school that has not had a graduation rate of 60 percent or greater in any of the past three years.

**Tier II.** Any high school that is eligible for but did not receive Title I funds that is:

1. Among the lowest-achieving 5 percent of high schools

Or

2. Has not had a graduation rate of 60 percent or greater in any of the past three years.

High schools are defined as schools serving grades 9-12.

Academic achievement is measured by performance on Arizona's standards-based test, the AIMS using the "all students" category.

Graduation rates are measured using a four-year, adjusted cohort graduation rate. Cohort years 2007, 2008, and 2009 were used in the determination.

Determining the lowest-achieving 5 percent. Arizona ranked schools using the Single Percentage Method defined in federal guidance using current year test results (p5). This ranked schools by the percentage of students scoring proficient on the AIMS. Arizona also ranked schools by lack of progress. Lack of progress was measured as the average annual change in the percentage of students scoring proficient on AIMS over the past three years. A school's final ranking was determined by averaging the two ranks, giving each rank equal weight, using the following formula:



$$\text{Final Rank} = \frac{\text{Rank Percent Proficient} + \text{Rank Lack of Progress}}{2}$$

**Exceptions.** Schools identified as credit recovery were not included on the list. To be identified as credit recovery, a school had to have met the state Board’s definition of an alternative school, and to have identified itself through its publicly posted mission statement on its school report card as a credit recovery school.

